

Interstate Telcom Consulting, Inc.

Independent Telecommunications Consultants

Received & Inspected

OCT 29 2013

FCC Mail Room

October 21, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 9300 East Hampton Drive Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90: Form 481 - Annual Reporting Requirements for High-Cost and Low Income Recipients

Pursuant to Section 54.313 and 54.422 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules, enclosed is a redacted version of Form 481 Annual Reporting Requirements and Certifications for Siren Telephone Company, Inc., Study Area Code 330949. Siren Telephone Company, Inc. is a state-designated ETC, and as such, is submitting to the Commission information from FCC Form 481. A confidential "Trade Secret" filing of this information was also made.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at roxih@interstatetelcom.com or by phone at 320/848-6641.

Sincerely,

Roxi Hacker

Regulatory Consultant

Enclosures:

Cc: Sid Sherstad

No. of Copies rec'd 11

1.7.7.6.000020000000000000000000000000000	m 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting illection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. July 2013	Received & Inspected
<010>	Study Area Code	330949	001 23 2013
<015>	Study Area Name	SIREN TEL CO, INC	FCC Mail Room
<020>	Program Year	2014	
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Roxanne Hacker	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030	320-848-6641 >	
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
ANNU/	LE REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS		54.313 54.422 Completion Required Required (check box when complete)
<100>	Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	CHECK SON WHITE COMPACT
<200> <210>	Outage Reporting (voice)	(complete attached worksheet) no outages to report	√
<310>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) Detail on Attempts (voice) Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) Detail on Attempts (broadband)	(attach descriptive document)	
<410> <420>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice Fixed Mobile Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broat Fixed Mobile		
<500> <510> <600> <610> <700> <710> <800> <1010> <1110> <1110>	Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection 330949WI510Siren Functionality in Emergency Situations 330949WI610Siren Company Price Offerings (voice) Company Price Offerings (broadband) Operating Companies and Affiliates Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? Voice Services Rate Comparability Terrestrial Backhaul (Y/N)?	Rules Compliance (check to indicate certification) (attached descriptive document) (check to indicate certification) (attached descriptive document) (complete attached worksheet) (complete attached worksheet) (if yes, complete attached worksheet) (check to indicate certification) (attach descriptive document) (if not, check to indicate certification) (complete attached worksheet)	
<2000> <2005>		rice Cap Local Exchange Carriers (check to indicate certification) (complete attached worksheet)	
<3000>		nal Documentation Worksheet (check to indicate certification) (complete attached worksheet)	'

FCC Form 481 (100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013	330949	IV Area Code		2014	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Roxanne Hacker	a line <030>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> roxin@interstatetelcom.com	Has voil rompany received its ETC certification from the FCC?	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 (yes / no) O year plan" filed with the FCC?	fryour answer to Line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54,202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service. Adrach File-Veya Service Cuality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, Attach File-Veya Service Cuality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, Attach File-Veya Service Cuality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, Attach File-Veya Service Cuality Improvement plan or, in subsequent years, Attach File-Veya Service and progress report its only required to address voice telephony service. CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service. It is contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to § 54,202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate. Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets Report how much universal service quality. How (USF) was used to improve service quality. How (USF) was used to improve service capacity Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met	
(100) Service Quality Impro Data Collection Form		Study Area Code	Study Area Name	Program Year	Contact Name - Per	Contact Telephone	Contact Email Addr	Has your company	If your answer to Li year plan" filed wit	If your answer to Li report, on line <11 54.202(a) "5 year F voice telephony se Attach Five-Year Se your annual progre CETC which only re required to addres 112, contains a pri plan pursuant to § center level or cer Maps detailing progre Report how much How (USF) was us How (USF) was us Provide an explan in the prior calenc	
(100) Sen Data Coll		- 1	<015>	<020>	<030>	İ	1		<111>	4113 4113 4115 4116 4116 4117 4118	

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Program Year Contact Name - Person U Contact Telephone Numb Contact Email Address - E				2014						er.
Contact Telephone Numb	SAC should con	tact regarding this		Roxanne Hacker						
Contact Email Address - E	er - Number of	person identified	in data line <03	0> 320-848-6641						
	mail Address o	person identified	in data line <0	30> roxih@intersta	etelcom.com					
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<a> <b1></b1>	<	+	404>	(CI)				Did This Outage		
NORS Reference Outage St Number Date	Outage Start Outage Start Date Time	Irt Outage End Date	Outage End Time	Number of Customers Affected	Total Number of Customers	911 Facilities Affected (Yes / No)	Service Outage Description (Check all that apply)	Affect Multiple Study Areas (Yes / No)	Service Outage Resolution	Preventative Procedures
					See attached	0				
	1			M	worksheet	-				

FCC Form 481

FCC Form 481

10/14/2013

FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013									<a3> <a3> <a> <a> <a> <a> <a> <a> <a> <a> <a> <a< th=""><th>9.00</th><th></th><th>neet</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th></a<></a3></a3>	9.00		neet											
					elcom.com				<92>	SAC		Cee attached worksheet											–
(800) Operating Companies Data Collection Form	- 1	Study Area Name	- 1	Contact Name - Person Osac Should Contact Name - Number of nerson identified in data line	- 1	<039> Contact Email Address - Elifeir Address -	<810> Reporting Carrier																

10/14/2013

10/14/2013 NA NA NA

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 FCC Form 481 July 2013 (900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form

		ewa.
330949 SIREN TEL CO, INC 2014	 <020> Program Year Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> xoxih@interstatetelcom.com Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> xoxih@interstatetelcom.com 	St Croix Band of Chippewa 24663 Angeline Avenue Nebster, WI 54893
<010> Study Area Code <015> Study Area Name	<020> Program Year <030> Contact Name - Pe <035> Contact Telephone <035> Contact Email Add	<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document (.pdf)

330949WI900Siren

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes: Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions; <921>

Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner; Compliance with Rights of way processes Feasibility and sustainability planning; <923>

Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements <925> <924>

Compliance with Environmental Review processes Compliance with Facilities Siting rules <926> <927>

Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements. Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes <928>

(Yes, No, Select Ź

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FCC Form 481

FCC Form 481

. Cap Local Exchange Carriers	330949	SIKEN TEL CU, INC		ŏ	30>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> roxih@interstatetelcom.com	CHECK the boxes below to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e) the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.	intal Connect America Phase I reporting	MCANACTOR OF A PROPERTY OF A P	3rd Year Certification {47 LFK § 54.5.13{D}/L}}	Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))	rozen Support Certification	rozen Support Certification	rozen Support Certification	2016 and future Frozen Support Certification	Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))	Certification Support Used to Build Broadband	Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))	3rd year Broadband Service Certification	5th year Broadband Service Certification	n Progress Certification	Please check the box to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 2021,	contains the required information pursuant to 9 -4-110 (4/10)(1), and addresses of	community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband		Name of Attached Document Listing Required Intolliations	
(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation Data Collection Form Including Rate-of-Return Carriers offiliated with Price	Study Area Code	Study Area Name	Program Year	Contact Name - Person USAC should to	Contact Telephone Number - Number	Contact Email Address - Email Addres	boxes below to note compliance as support	Incremental Connect America Phase Lieporting Incremental Connect America (47 CFR 5.54 313(b)	Zila feal Columbia (17) Ci	3rd Year Certification (47 Uri	Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Su	2013 Frozen Support Certification	2014 Frozen Support Certification	2015 Frozen Support Certification	2016 and future Frozen Supp	Price Cap Carrier Connect America I	Certification Support Used to	Connect America Phase II Reporting	3rd year Broadband Service	5th year Broadband Service	Interim Progress Certification	Please check the box to cont	contains the required inform of CAF Phase II support shall	community anchor institution	service in the preceding cale	Interim Progress Community	
(2000) Price Cap Carr Data Collection Form Including Rate-of-Ret	<010>	<015>	<020>	<030>	<035>	<039> (CHECK the	9100	<0102>	<2011>		<2012>	<2013>	<2014>	<2015>		<2016>		<2017>	<2018>	<2019>	<2020>				<2021>	

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	330949	C10.1 CC	SIREN TEL CO, INC	2014		act regarding this data Roxanne Hacker	Anse Contact Telanhone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 320-848-6641	2000 Company of the C	<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <0.30> TOX.10.01.LELS.LELELELELELELELELELELELELELELELELE
3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Locuma Data Collection Form		<010> Study Area Code	<015> Study Area Name	District Vest	<u2u> Program real</u2u>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Contact Telephone Number - Number of p	בסווופרו ובוכלווסוור ובייונים	Contact Email Address - Email Address of
(3000) Ra Data Coll		<010>	<0.15>	0.00	<070>	<030>	450	7550	<039>

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

			(ves/No)]	330949WI3000Siren (Yes/No)	ε	<u>ום</u> ם					
	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information		Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information			Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information			-				
Progress Report on 5 Year Plan	Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)) please check this box to confirm that the attached PDF , on line 3012,	contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carner (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report Please check three Books to confirm that the attached POF, on line 3017,	contains the required information pursuants 3 or security. requires: [Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)	PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	Management letter issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.	If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a independent certified bublic accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified	public accountain. Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.	nor at paining that Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows
•	(3010) N	(3011)	(3012) (3013) (3014) (3014)	(3015)	(3016)	(3017)		(3019)	(3021)	(3022)	(3023)	(3024)	12000

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330949
<015>	Study Area Name	SIREN TEL CO, INC
<020>	Program Year	2014
		on USAC should contact regarding this data Roxanne Hacker
		umber - Number of person identified in data line <030> 320-848-6641
<039>	Contact Email Address	s - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> roxin@interstateteleom.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate. Name of Reporting Carrier: Signature of Authorized Officer: Date Printed name of Authorized Officer: Title or position of Authorized Officer: Telephone number of Authorized Officer: Filing Due Date for this form: Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

	ion - Agent / Carrier ection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330949	
<015>	Study Area Name	SIREN TEL CO, INC	
<020>	Program Year	2014	
<030>	Contact Name - Person US	AC should contact regarding this data Roxanne Hacker	
		r - Number of person identified in data line <030> 320-848-6641	
<039>		nail Address of person identified in data line <030> roxih@interstatetelo	COM . COM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

certify that (Name of Agent) <u>ITCI</u> ilso certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilit igent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided	is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. ies include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized to the authorized agent is accurate.
Name of Authorized Agent: ITCI	
Name of Reporting Carrier: SIREN TEL CO, INC	Date: 10/14/2013
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date: 10/14/2013
Printed name of Authorized Officer: Sid Sherstad	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: Vice President	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 715-349-2224	
	Filing Due Date for this form: 10/15/2013

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for	CAF or LI Recipients on Benair of Reporting Carrier
as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for univ	ersal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided
as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to sushift the third the best of my known at the carrier; and, to the best of my known at the carrier; and, to the best of my known at the carrier is and, to the best of my known at the carrier is and, to the best of my known at the carrier is and, to the best of my known at the carrier is a carrier is a carrier is a carrier in the carrier in the carrier is a carrier in the carrier in the carrier is a carrier in the carrier in the carrier is a carrier in the carrier in the carrier in the carrier is a carrier in the carr	wledge, the information reported herein is accurate.
ame of Reporting Carrier: SIREN TEL CO, INC	
lame of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: ITCI	20/14/2012
gnature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date: 10/14/2013
rinted name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: Roxanne Hacker	
itle or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent Regulatory Consultant	
elephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: 320-848-6641	
tudy Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 330949 Filing Due Date for thi	is form: 10/15/2013

Attachments

Siren Telephone Company, Inc.

Form 481 Line No.: 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

As required by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) Chapter 165 Rules, the local services provided by Siren Telephone Company, Inc. are provided under internal company operating procedures and publically available tariffs which are in compliance with applicable Wisconsin PSC orders and rules including:

WI Chapter PSC 165 STANDARDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

165.010	General.	165.065	Emergency operation.
		165.066	Protection of utility facilities.
165.020		165.067	Interference with public service
165.031		105.007	structures.
165.032		165.070	Provision for testing.
	commission.	165.071	Meter and recording equipment test
165.033	Exchange area boundaries.	105.071	facilities.
165.034	Utility accidents and interruptions.	165 072	Accuracy requirements.
165.040	Meter reading records.		
165.041	Meter reading interval.	165.073	Initial test.
165.042	Billing recording equipment.		As-found tests.
165.043	Information available to customers.	165.075	Routine tests.
165.050	Customer billing.	165.076	Request tests.
165.051	Deposits.	165.077	Referee tests.
165.052		165.078	Test records.
	Deferred payment agreement.	165.082	Traffic and operator rules.
	Customer complaints.	165.083	Answering time objectives.
	Dispute procedures.	165.084	Dial service objectives.
165.054	Held applications.	165.085	Interoffice trunks.
165.055	Directories.	165.086	
165.060	Construction.	165.087	Minimum transmission objectives.
165.061		165.088	Public telephone service.
165.062	Line fills.	165.089	Interruptions of service.
	Central office equipment.	165.090	
		165.091	
165.064	interconnection service standards.	103.031	22.23, [2 0

Siren Telephone Company, Inc.

Form 481 Line No: 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

Siren Telephone Company, Inc. pursuant to Wisconsin Public Service Commission rule "165.065 Emergency Operation" has:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from national security requirements, failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness or personnel, or from fire, storm, or similar emergencies. These provisions meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
 - Back up battery service in each central office.
 - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.
- Informed employees as to procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service, including rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power.

FCC Form 481 OMB Centrol No. 3060-0986/OMB Centrol No. 3060-0819 July 2013							<a3>></a3>	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation	Siren Communications													
				etelcom.com			<a2></a2>	SAC								į						
<u> </u>	Study Area Name	Program Year	Contact Name - Person Osac should contact regarding the costs.	(U33) Contact Final Address - Final Address of person identified in data line <030) roxin@interstatetelcom.com	Siren Telephone Company, Inc. <810> Reporting Carrier	1 I	cat>	A		Siren Communicaitons												

Siren Telephone Company, Inc. sent out a correspondence letter based on the FCC's Reform Order obligations to the tribal government in the area we serve, that letter is attached. The letter was addressed to contacts as provided by the National Congress of American Indian's Tribal Directory. Siren Telephone Company, Inc. did not receive any response from the St Croix Tribe in our area.

Tribal Engagement – for ETCs that serve Tribal Lands

Obligations in the FCC's USF/ICC Reform Order

Requirements:

- 1. Needs Assessment and Deployment Planning- focus on Tribal anchor institutions
 - a. <u>Tribe responsibility</u>: Assessment of Tribes communication needs-specific communication goals, needs, priorities and uses. Identify community or anchor institutions that are central to deployment and consider economic factors/opportunities that would make a business case for deployment.
 - ETC responsibility: Articulate deployment priorities, process to determine these priorities and initial plans for deployment on Tribal lands, including timelines and prioritizing factors.
- 2. Feasibility and sustainability planning
 - a. Tribal government leaders and providers should be able to coordinate the feasibility and sustainability planning, by discussing specific challenges (rugged/remote terrain, poverty levels, sustainability) and additional resources that may be available to the tribal land (government programs that support infrastructure deployment or other business ventures).
- 3. Marketing services (in culturally sensitive manner)
 - a. Providers must report on their efforts to ensure that services on Tribal lands are marketed in a way that relates to the community, resonates with the consumers and stimulates adoption.
- 4. Rights of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes
 - a. Both Tribal governments and providers should discuss the relevant rights of way and other permitting and review processes (including those set forth by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)). Tribal governments should provide a comprehensive list of these processes and providers should provide documentation of all processes with which they currently comply.
- 5. Compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements
 - a. Tribal governments should provide a comprehensive list of all requirements applicable to the provision of communications services.
 - b. ETCs should provide current evidence of compliance with any Tribal business practice license, if any.



August 29, 2012

St Croix Band of Chippewa Stuart Bearheart 24663 Angeline Avenue Webster, WI 54893

Re: FCC Order 11-161, DA 12-1165 Tribal Land Engagement.

Dear Sir:

Siren Telephone Company serves the St Croix Band of Chippewa area with phone and internet service. I am writing you today to initiate conversation with your Tribal government and leaders to discuss any and all options to better serve your lands with high speed technology. Specifically, I would like to discuss your specific communications goals, needs and priorities. Once that is clear we can discuss the feasibility and sustainability of Siren Telephone Company deploying these services to your area.

Please contact me at your convenience:

Sid Sherstad
Siren Telephone Company
7723 Main Street
PO Box 426
Siren, WI 54872
715-349-2224
sherstad@sirentel.net

Sincerely, /s/. Sid Sherstad

Sid Sherstad General Manager

Siren Telephone Company, Inc.

Form 481 Line No.: 1210 Terms and Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline

 Siren Telephone Company, Inc. offers Lifeline Service credit according to basic service requirements listed in Wisconsin Administrative Code 160.03 and 160.04:

PSC 160.03 Essential telecommunications services.

- 1) Each local exchange service provider shall make available to all its customers at affordable prices all essential telecommunications services.
- 2) "Essential telecommunications services" means all the following:
 - (a) Single-party voice-grade service with:
 - 1. Line quality capable of facsimile transmission.
 - 2. Line quality capable of data transmission as specified in s. PSC 160.031.
 - 3. Dual-tone multi-frequency touch tone and rotary pulse dialing operability.
 - **4.** Access to emergency services numbers and 9-1-1 operability where requested by local authorities.
 - 5. Equal access to interlata interexchange carriers subject to federal communications commission orders and rules.
 - **6.** Equal access to intralata interexchange carriers pursuant to schedules, terms and conditions imposed by commission orders and rules.
 - 7. Single party revertive calling, if 2 or more pieces of customer premises equipment can be simultaneously active on the line or channel being used by the customer.
 - **8.** A reasonably adequate number of calls within a reasonably adequate local calling area as defined by the commission.
 - **9.** Connectivity with all public toll, local, wireline and wireless networks, and with various internet service providers.
 - 10. Telecommunications relay service to facilitate communication between teletypewriter users and non-teletypewriter users.
 - 11. Access to operator service.
 - 12. Access to directory assistance.
 - **13.** Toll blocking, 900 and 976 number blocking and extended community calling blocking options as specified in s.<u>PSC 160.04.</u>
 - 14. Intercept and announcements for vacant, changed, suspended and disconnected numbers in oral and TTY-readable formats.
 - 15. A directory listing with the option for non-listed and non-published service.
 - (b) Annual distribution of a local telephone directory in accordance with s. PSC 165,955.
 - (c) Timely repair.

PSC 160.04 Toll blocking.

(1) BLOCKING OBLIGATIONS. Every local exchange service provider in the state shall offer the capability to block all long distance calls and, separately, the capability to block 900 and 976 number calls and the capability to block extended community calling unless a timely waiver has been granted to the local exchange service provider by the commission.

Siren Telephone Company, Inc.

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- (2) CHARGES. Blocking shall be without monthly or nonrecurring charge to low-income customers and at no charge other than for second and subsequent service activation orders for other residential and standard business line customers.
- (3) EMERGENCY SERVICE. Blocking shall not prevent the customer from reaching the emergency service numbers appropriate for the customer's location.
- Siren Telephone Company, Inc.'s Lifeline service offerings are listed in their Local Service Tariff Section 4, Sheet 3-5, Section 6, Sheet 3 (attached).
- The Local Service Tariff is on file with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.
- All Lifeline subscribers must meet the terms and conditions of Federal Lifeline Eligibility Rules.

Siren Telephone Company, Inc. does adhere to all Federal Lifeline eligibility rules and regulations as well as Wisconsin Administrative Code "Chapter PSC 160" which states:

PSC 160.02 Definitions.

- 8) "Low-income" means a household that receives benefits from one or more of the following programs:
 - (a) Wisconsin Works
 - (b) Medical Assistance
 - (c) Supplemental security income
 - (d) Food stamps
 - (e) The low income household energy assistance program
 - (f) The Wisconsin homestead tax credit
 - (g) Badger care
 - (h) As approved by the commission, other state or federally administered programs for households with income levels equal to or less than 200% of the poverty line.

PSC 160.06 Eligibility for low-income programs.

- (1) LOW-INCOME ASSISTANE ELIGIBILITY. Local exchange service providers shall verify an applicant's eligibility for low-income assistance programs by making timely queries of the applicable databases of the Wisconsin department of workforce development, the Wisconsin department of revenue, or other state agencies. Applicant eligibility shall be verified by finding the applicant to be any of the following:
 - (a) An active client of at least one of the programs listed in s.PSC 160.02(8).
 - (b) A member of the active client's household whose low income qualifies the client for benefits under at least one of the programs listed in s. <u>PSC 160.02(8)</u>.
 - (c) A recipient of the Wisconsin homestead tax credit for the most recently completed tax year. If the applicant's tax filing for the most recently completed tax year has not been posted to the records of the Wisconsin department of revenue and if application for low-income assistance is made on or before June 30th, then the tax year prior to the most recently completed tax year may be used to determine eligibility.

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- (2) ELIGIBILITY RECONFIRMATION. Eligibility shall be reconfirmed on at least an annual basis for all customers receiving lifeline assistance.
- (3) ELIGIBILITY INQUIRY. Local exchange service providers shall inquire of the customer regarding eligibility of that customer for low-income programs on each order for initial or moved residential service and, orally or in writing, in the first contact with a customer during a year concerning disconnection or payment arrangements.
- (4) QUERY AUTHORIZATION. Local exchange service providers shall comply with client authorization requirements of the Wisconsin department of workforce development, the Wisconsin department of revenue, or other state agencies for database queries necessary for eligibility verification. Customers shall complete and remit any reasonably required query authorization forms or forfeit eligibility.
- (5) EXCEPTIONS. Lifeline and Link-Up programs are not available to customers who are dependents for federal income tax purposes as defined in 26 USC 152 (1986), unless the customer is more than 60 years of age.

PSC 160.062 Lifeline program.

- (1) All local exchange service providers shall offer a lifeline monthly rate to all qualified low-income customers.
- (2)
- (a) The lifeline monthly rate includes single-party residential service, touch-tone service, any 9-1-1 charges billed on the telephone bill, the federal subscriber line charge and 120 local calls, excluding extended community calling calls.
- (b) The lifeline monthly rate shall be the total of the residential monthly rates for the items in par. (a) minus \$7 or, if the total of the monthly residential rates for the items in par. (a) is greater than \$22, the lifeline monthly rate shall be \$15.
- (c) Notwithstanding par. (b), in no case shall the lifeline monthly rate be less than \$3 or more than \$15.
- (3) The lifeline monthly rate may appear as a credit against the full standard tariffed rate on a customer's bill or as a special rate designation. Whenever possible, the lifeline rate shall begin to appear on an eligible customer's bill on the next bill date following the date of application for lifeline assistance. If the rate does not begin to appear on the next bill date, when it does appear back credit will be given. In cases where a customer's eligibility date as found in the records of the Wisconsin department of workforce development, the Wisconsin department of revenue, or other state agencies precedes the last bill date prior to application, credit shall also be given for one month's prior bill.
- (4)
- (a) Eligibility for lifeline assistance continues until the next bill date following a failure to meet eligibility requirements.
- When the low income household energy assistance program is one of the customer's qualifying income assistance programs, the eligibility for lifeline assistance shall continue until the bill date in the next December following the close of the heating season. At that time, lack of eligibility shall be re-verified by the local exchange service provider before removing the lifeline assistance from the customer's bill.

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- (c) When the homestead tax credit is one of the customer's qualifying income assistance programs, the eligibility for lifeline assistance continues until the bill date in the next June following the end of the tax year. At that time, lack of eligibility shall be re-verified by the local exchange service provider before removing the lifeline assistance from the customer's bill.
- (5) Local exchange service providers may receive reimbursement from the universal service fund for 100% of that portion of the standard authorized rate for service which is in excess of the amount of the lifeline monthly rate which is eligible for reimbursement from federal lifeline program funds.
- (6) Customers eligible for lifeline or link-up America assistance may not be charged a deposit for service if they voluntarily accept toll blocking, may not be requested to pay in advance for more than one month's local service bill, and may not be disconnected from local service for nonpayment of toll charges billed by the local exchange service provider. Customers that otherwise would be subject to disconnection may be counseled to accept toll blocking.
- (7) A local exchange service provider acting under the limited conditions specified in its commission approved telecommunications customer assistance program under s. <u>PSC 160.08</u> may impose toll blocking or restriction on lifeline customers.

PSC 160.063 Outreach for low-income assistance programs.

- (1) Funding shall be available to fund collaborative partnerships between community-based organizations and telecommunications providers to increase participation of the eligible populations in the universal service fund low-income support programs.
- (2) Funding from the universal service fund for these collaborative efforts shall not exceed \$250,000 in one year.
- (3) The commission shall annually review and grant funding based on complete responses to a request for proposals. Funding shall be limited to not more than 6 projects with at least one project focused statewide and one project focused on the Milwaukee area, if feasible.
- (4) The commission shall contract for an evaluation of the effectiveness of this program in promoting enrollment in low-income programs and subscribership to telephone service to be completed within 2 years of May 1, 2000. The cost of this evaluation shall not exceed \$25,000. This \$25,000 shall be included as part of the \$250,000 maximum total funding available under this section during the year in which the evaluation occurs.

PSC 160.08 Telecommunications customer assistance program.

The commission may authorize individual telecommunications providers to establish telecommunications customer assistance programs that meet authorized goals and objectives for increasing or stabilizing subscription levels for non-optional, essential telephone service within its service territory or to address avoidance of disconnection or limitation of service to low-income households with payment problems. Such programs may allow a provider to not make available certain essential services, as defined in s. <u>PSC 160.03(2)</u>, in order to preserve at least minimal telephone service to certain low-income households with payment problems. The commission shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether or not a telecommunications customer assistance program may receive universal service fund monies.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

REDACTED:

Siren Telephone Company, Inc.

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